

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

October 9, 2012

According to the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, the entertainment industry accounts for 176,700 jobs and \$30 billion in spending in the Southern California region. However, there are 40 states and numerous countries around the world that are competing aggressively for this business:

- In 2003, over 66% of studio feature films shot in California. In 2011, that number had dropped to less than 40%.
- In 2009, the lowest year on record, on-location shooting days for feature films in Los Angeles dropped nearly 65%.
- In 2005, 79% of new network one-hour dramas filmed in California. In 2012, only 8% (just two of the 23 new shows) will be filming here.
- The list of television and movies that are produced and written here, but filmed elsewhere continues to increase at a dramatic pace. *Homeland*, for example, is written here in Los Angeles, but filmed in North Carolina. The team behind NBC's new *Revolution* is based here in LA, but it is also filmed in North Carolina. The movie *Battle Los Angeles* was filmed in Baton Rouge.
- In fact, from 2004-2011, California lost \$3 billion in film crew wages to other states and nations.
- At many IATSE Locals in greater Los Angeles, the unemployment rate is 30% or higher.

- M O R E -

MOTION

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RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

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To help fight against runaway production, this Board recently adopted a Board policy that incorporates the revised model film ordinance and best practices adopted by the California Film Commission, to help establish a uniform set of policies that streamlines the film permitting process.

Despite these efforts, we sometimes continue to be our own worst enemy. Recently, I was contacted by a number of film industry representatives who expressed frustration at the difference between the pricing and procedures to film at County run facilities as opposed to County facilities run by nonprofit foundations, such as the Music Center, the Natural History Museum, Descanso Gardens and others, which now includes Grand Avenue Park, where film location rental fees were recently set as high as \$20,000 per day.

I believe there should be a thorough evaluation of the County's film fees at County owned facilities, including those that are run by nonprofit foundations, as well as an analysis on the impact that increased filming will have on public venues. I do not believe charging excessive fees should be used to stop filming. Perhaps on certain venues reasonable fees can be charged with a limit on the number of days venues can be closed to the public. There should be a balance between increased revenue and jobs and the public's enjoyment of County facilities.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Board on film fees charged at County facilities, including those that are run by nonprofit foundations, and come back with recommendations to the Board on improving the structure of fees charged and ensuring that reasonable fees are being charged to film at Los Angeles County facilities.

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